

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1159

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0385

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION 3 SUPPLEMENT PAPER

REF: (A) USNATO 3850

(B) STATE 169248

(C) USNATO 3812

1. AS REPORTED IN PARA 1 OF REF A, UK AND FRG REPS AT JULY 18 TRILATERAL MEETING BOTH FELT THAT PARA 3 LATEST US DRAFT SUPPLEMENT PAPER (REF B) NEEDED FURTHER MODIFICATION TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH BRITISH AND GERMAN VIEWS. UK CONTINUES TO CONSIDER THAT ALLIES SHOULD SEEK NUMERICAL SPECIFICATION OF COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I. FRG SUGGESTS THAT A SATISFACTORY APPROACH WOULD BE EITHER (A) TO OBTAIN EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON THE NUMERICAL LEVEL

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OF AGGREGATE GROUND AND AIR FORCE ON THE MANPOWER ON BOTH SIDES

AS THE STARTING POINT FOR PHASE II REDUCTIONS, OR (B) TO QUANTIFY THE COMMON CEILING DURING COURSE OF PHASE I NEGOTIATIONS THE EAST INDICATES WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO NUMERICALLY SPECIFY THE COMMON CEILING AT THE NUMERICAL LEVEL SUGGESTED BY THE WEST. IN EITHER CASE, THE ALLIES WOULD AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES NOT TO REDUCE WESTERN FORCES BELOW A CERTAIN LEVEL. AT THE TRILATERAL MEETING, FRG REP (RUTH) SAID THAT THIS APPROACH REPRESENTS BASIC THRUST OF FRG PAPER ON THE COMMON CEILING, CIRCULATED AT THE JULY 17 SPC (REF C). UK REP (TICKELL) THOUGHT THE GERMAN IDEA INTERESTING, AND UNDERTOOK TO STUDY IT.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE SOME WORKABLE AND SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE AS REGARDS QUANTIFICATION OF THE COMMON CEILING. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO KEEP THE ATTENTION OF THE SPC FOCUSED ON WORKING THE TEXTS OF THE GUIDANCE AND THE SUPPLEMENT. WE WOULD HOPE TO AVOID EXTENDED DISCUSSION IN THE SPC OF THE GERMAN COMMON CEILING PAPER (WHICH HAS CERTAIN OTHER UNDESIRABLE ASPECTS) BY BRINGING THE MAIN SUBSTANTIVE SUGGESTION IT MAKES INTO THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF THE TEXT OF SUPPLEMENT.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE DRAFTED, FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION, A MODIFIED PARA 3 TEXT WHICH INCORPORATES THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GERMAN SUGGESTION. IN EFFECT, OUR REDRAFT DROPS THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE PRESENT PARA 3, AND SUBSTITUTES SOME NEW MATERIAL BROKEN DOWN INTO SEVERAL SUB-PARAGRAPHS.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON APPROVE THE SUGGESTED TEXT GIVEN BELOW AND AUTHORIZE USNATO TO INTRODUCE IT AT AN APPROPRIATE POINT IN THE SPC DISCUSSION, AFTER THE SUPPLEMENT TEXT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN ITS PRESENT FORM. WE HAVE SHOWN OUR SUGGESTED TEXT ON A PERSONAL BASIS TO GERMAN DELEGATION HERE AND ASKED FOR COMMENTS.

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3. IN ORDER FOR WEST TO ACCEPT A PHASE I AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR OPTION III REDUCTIONS, THE SOVIETS MUST AGREE TO WITHDRAW A SOVIET TANK ARMY IN PHASE I AND EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST COMMIT THEMSELVES TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH WEST AND MUST ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE THAT PHASE II AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR REDUCTIONS TO ATTAIN A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING ON GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA.

3.A. IN THE PHASE I AGREEMENT, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL COLLECTIVELY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO AGREE IN PHASE II ON WHATEVER FURTHER REDUCTIONS WILL BE NEEDED TO REACH PARITY IN THE TOTAL OF GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER FOR BOTH SIDES. IN THIS CONNECTION, A COMMON UNDERSTANDING SHOULD BE REACHED WITH THE EAST ON THE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF AGGREGATE GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER ON EACH SIDE REMAINING AFTER PHASE I REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE FIGURES WOULD QUANTIFY THE DISPARITY TO BE ELIMINATED IN PHASE II, PURSUANT TO THE PHASE I COMMITMENT TO THE CONCEPT OF THE COMMON CEILING. THESE FIGURES WOULD ALSO CONSTITUTE THE LEVEL OF AGGREGATE GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER NOT TO BE EXCEEDED BETWEEN THE PHASES.

3.B. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD DESCRIBE THE LEVEL OF THEIR COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING OBJECTIVE, ILLUSTRATIVELY, AS APPROXIMATELY 900,000 MEN. IF DURING THE COURSE OF PHASE I NEGOTIATIONS THE EAST INDICATES WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO NUMERICALLY SPECIFY THE COMMON CEILING AT THE NUMERICAL LEVEL SUGGESTED BY THE WEST, THIS FIGURE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PHASE I AGREEMENT. IN SUCH A CASE, A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON THE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF AGGREGATE GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER FOR EACH SIDE WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY IN PHASE I, THOUGH STILL DESIRABLE.

3.C. FOR MILITARY REASONS, THE ALLIES WOULD REJECT POSSIBLE EASTERN ATTEMPTS, EITHER IN PHASE I OR IN PHASE II, TO SET THE COMMON CEILING AT A LEVEL LOWER THAN APPROXIMATELY 900,000 MEN. END TEXT.RESOR

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